



**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**  
HONOLULU

**News Release**

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

For Immediate Release: May 2, 2006

**PRESIDENT BUSH SIGNS MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION FOR  
HAWAI'I REQUESTED BY GOVERNOR LINGLE**

HONOLULU – In a letter to Governor Linda Lingle today, President George W. Bush said he has declared a major disaster for the State of Hawai'i, "due to damage resulting from severe storms, flooding, landslides and mudslides during the period of February 20 to April 2, 2006." The President's declaration authorizes federal relief and recovery assistance in the affected areas.

Governor Lingle sent the request for a disaster declaration to the President three weeks ago, on April 11, estimating that damage from the flooding disaster would exceed \$50 million. In his response to the Governor today, President Bush said individual assistance, public assistance and hazard mitigation will be provided.

"President Bush understands that, unlike many disasters which threaten people and property for a few hours or a few days, this was a prolonged disaster lasting nearly six weeks," said Governor Lingle, expressing her gratitude for the President's assistance for Hawai'i.

According to the President's letter to Governor Lingle, "The Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), will coordinate Federal assistance efforts and designate specific areas eligible for such assistance."

Officials from FEMA Region 9 in Oakland, Calif. will arrive in Honolulu later this week to begin the coordination effort. FEMA and State Civil Defense will notify the news media and those people who sustained losses during the flood disaster how to register and apply for assistance.

(more)

Last week, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns approved the Governor's request for disaster designation due to crop damage that occurred in the County of Kaua'i and the City & County of Honolulu between February 20 and March 26, 2006. The disaster declaration by the Secretary makes Hawai'i farmers eligible for federal low-interest loans.

####

For more information, contact:

Major General Robert Lee  
State Adjutant General  
Phone: (808) 733-4246

Ed Teixeira  
Vice Director, Civil Defense  
Phone: (808) 733-4300

Lenny Klompus  
Senior Advisor – Communications  
Phone: (808) 586-7708

Russell Pang  
Chief of Media Relations  
Phone: (808) 586-0043